Kind Reader,

THE favourable Reception my annual Labours have met with from the Publick theſe 15 Years paſt, has engaged me in Gratitude to endeavour ſome Improvement of my Almanack. And ſince my Friend *Taylor* is no more, whoſe *Ephemerides* ſo long and ſo agreeably ſerv'd and entertain'd theſe Provinces, I have taken the Liberty to imitate his well-known Method, and give two Pages for each Month; which affords me Room for ſeveral valuable Additions, as will beſt appear on Inſpection and Compariſon with former Almanacks. Yet I have not ſo far follow'd his Method, as not to continue my own where I thought it preferable; and thus my Book is increas'd to a Size beyond his, and contains much more Matter.

Hail Night ſerene! thro' Thee where'er we turn
Our wond'ring Eyes, Heav'n's Lamps profuſely burn;
And Stars unnumber'd all the Sky adorn.
But lo!——what's that I ſee appear?
It ſeems far off a pointed flame;
From Earthwards too the ſhining Meteor came:
How ſwift it climbs th' etherial Space!
And now it traverſes each Sphere,
And ſeems ſome knowing Mind, familiar to the Place.
Dame, hand my Glaſs, the longeſt, ſtrait prepare;---
'Tis He——'tis TAYLOR's *Soul, that travels there.*
O ſtay! thou happy Spirit, ſtay,
And lead me on thro' all th' unbeaten Wilds of Day;
Where Planets in pure Streams of Ether driven,
Swim thro' the blue Expanſe of Heav'n.
There let me, thy Companion, ſtray
From Orb to Orb, and now behold
Unnumber'd Suns, all Seas of molten Gold,
And trace each Comet's wandring Way.——

Souſe down into Proſe again, my Muſe; for Poetry's no more thy Element, than Air is that of the Flying-Fiſh; whoſe Flights, like thine, are therefore always ſhort and heavy.——

We complain ſometimes of hard Winters in this Country; but our Winters will appear as Summers, when compar'd with thoſe that ſome of our Countrymen undergo in the moſt Northern *Britiſh* Colony on this Continent, which is that upon *Churchill* River, in *Hudſon's Bay*, Lat. 58d. 56m. Long. from *London* 94d. 50m. Weſt. Captain *Middleton*, a Member of the *Royal Society*, who had made many Voyages thither, and winter'd there 1741-2, when he was in Search of the *North-Weſt* Paſſage to the *South-Sea*, gives an Account of it to that Society, from which I have extracted theſe Particulars, *viz.*

The Hares, Rabbits, Foxes, and Partridges, in *September* and the Beginning of *October*, change their Colour to a ſnowy White, and continue white till the following Spring.

The Lakes and ſtanding Waters, which are not above 10 or 12 Feet deep, are frozen to the Ground in Winter, and the Fiſhes therein all periſh. Yet in Rivers near the Sea, and Lakes of a greater Depth than 10 or 12 Feet, Fiſhes are caught all the Winter, by cutting Holes thro' the Ice, and therein putting Lines and Hooks. As ſoon as the Fiſh are brought into the open Air, they inſtantly freeze ſtiff.

Beef, Pork, Mutton, and Veniſon, kill'd in the Beginning of the Winter, are preſerved by the Froſt for 6 or 7 Months, entirely free from Putrefaction. Likewiſe Geeſe, Partridges, and other Fowls, kill'd at the ſame Time, and kept with their Feathers on and Guts in, are preſerv'd by the Froſt, and prove good Eating. All Kinds of Fiſh are preſerv'd in the ſame Manner.

In large Lakes and Rivers, the Ice is ſometimes broken by impriſon'd Vapours; and the Rocks, Trees, Joiſts, and Rafters of our Buildings, are burſt with a Noiſe not leſs terrible than the firing of many Guns together. The Rocks which are ſplit by the Froſt, are heaved up in great Heaps, leaving large Cavities behind. If Beer or Water be left even in Copper Pots by the Bed-ſide, the Pots will be ſplit before Morning. Bottles of ſtrong Beer, Brandy, ſtrong Brine, Spirits of Wine, ſet out in the open Air for 3 or 4 Hours, freeze to ſolid Ice. The Froſt is never out of the Ground, how deep is not certain; but on digging 10 or 12 Feet down in the two Summer Months, it has been found hard frozen.

All the Water they uſe for Cooking, Brewing, *&c.* is melted Snow and Ice; no Spring is yet found free from freezing, tho' dug ever ſo deep down.—All Waters inland, are frozen faſt by the Beginning of *October*, and continue ſo to the Middle of *May*.

The Walls of the Houſes are of Stone, two Feet thick the Windows very ſmall, with thick wooden Shutters,